

Michael R. Williamson

WHEREAS, being raised and educated in Benton Harbor, Michigan, Michael R. Williamson graduated with a B.A. from Adams State College, Alamoso, Colorado, in 1970, and began his work as a public servant as a probation officer in the Fifth District Court, St. Joseph, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, after accepting a position as a Social Studies Teacher with the St. Joseph Public Schools in 1971, Michael R. Williamson earned a M.A. degree in counseling and personnel from Western Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, from 1973 to 1994, Michael R. Williamson accepted positions of increasing responsibility in public education and provided superior leadership which benefitted many children by serving as the Administrative Assistant for Business Operations of the Watervliet Public Schools, Assistant Director for the Center of Educational Research for Western Michigan University, the Superintendent of three Michigan school districts, including the Dexter Community School District, the Gibraltar Area Schools, and the School District of the City of Wyandotte, and earned a Ph.D. in education leadership from Western Michigan University in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Michael R. Williamson joined the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) as director of the State Board Office in 1995, and oversaw development of public education reform efforts and State Board activities, and thereafter served as Deputy Superintendent for Education Services with responsibility for all of the MDE's programs supporting the academic services in Michigan's public schools, and frequently characterized MDE's efforts as "working to help each school become better, to assure that each child did in fact learn"; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with MDE Michael R. Williamson served as a tireless advocate for school improvement and education reform, provided critical leadership to focus the MDE's resources to provide technical assistance to schools to boost improvement, helped to lead Michigan Governor John Engler's charter school and reading initiatives, and assisted the State Board of Education in focusing on boosting academic achievement in chronically underperforming schools; and

WHEREAS, Michael R. Williamson has informed the MDE that he will leave his post as Deputy Superintendent for Education Services to pursue a career as Midwest Vice-President of the Galef Institute; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education receives with deep regret the news of the resignation of this able and distinguished educator and administrator; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education extends to Michael R. Williamson its highest regard and heartfelt gratitude for the dedication and expertise he has brought to the public schools and children of Michigan; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education expresses its fervent wish that Michael R. Williamson enjoys many years of happiness, good health, and rewarding experiences in his new position and thereafter.

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Adopted August 23, 2001

Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman